

# Independent

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SJC gives ex-judge Naqvi another chance to present his case

## All institutions including SC accountable to people: CJP

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on Thursday gave Justice (ret'd) Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi — who faces complaints of misconduct — another chance to present his viewpoint before the body.

The development came a day after Naqvi stepped down from his post due to "circumstances which are a matter of public knowledge and to some extent public record".

The SJC served an intimation notice on Naqvi, whose resignation was accepted by President Arif Alvi earlier today, asking him to appear before the body tomorrow if he wants to give his viewpoint against the complaints lodged against him.

During the course of proceedings, SJC Chairman Justice Qazi Faez Isa remarked there could be two

reasons behind the judge's resignation: the complaint against the judge was false and he stepped down under pressure or the allegations were true and he did not want to face them.

"The question of judge's dismissal is now irrelevant," he stated, adding that the council had just sent a report to the president.

"If allegations had been proven, then the council would have requested the president for the judge's dismissal."

All institutions, including SC, were accountable to the people, remarked Justice Isa, adding: "If everyone learns this thing, all the problems will be solved."

Meanwhile, the SJC, noting that Naqvi's lawyers would be heard if he requested, adjourned the proceedings till 11am today (Friday).



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar interacts with KP Police officials after the Police Darbar Ceremony.

## Whosoever does not accept law of Pakistan should go out: PM

*Says we will have to fight with wisdom and proper strategy; Vowes to take the fight against terrorism in the country to the logical end; If terrorists carry out 10 attacks on us we will carry out attacks on them for 10000 times. We have won war against terrorism. Only announcement for our win has to be made; Nation highly indebted to security forces for fearlessly fighting against terrorism*

PESHAWAR (Online): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar ul Haq Kakar has said the terrorists browbeat people in the name of Islam but we don't fear from the terrorists.

"If terrorists carry out 10 attacks on us we will carry out attacks on them for 10000 times. We have won war against terrorism. Only announcement for our win has to be made.

We will not bow before them, Whosoever does not accept Pakistan law he should go out from here, he said this while addressing Police Darbar here Thursday.

The heirs of Police martyrs are not ordinary people. They are the greatest people, he added.

Who sides with evil are very degraded people. Innocent children were martyred in APS.

Mentioning the Army Public School Peshawar tragedy in which innocent students and faculty members along with police personnel were targeted by the terrorists, the Prime Minister said the state will not spare the coward terrorists.

He said correct approach is the main factor,

required in fighting terrorism and we firmly believe that we are on right path.

He said terrorists cannot shatter our resolve by carrying out terrorists attacks in the country. He said we have won war on terrorism morally.

The Prime Minister reiterated government's resolve to continue war against terrorism till complete elimination of terrorists from the country.

He assured that all the requirements of the police force would be fulfilled in consultation with the provincial government.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali and Chief Minister Arshad Hussain Shah were also present on this occasion.

APP adds: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said the entire nation was highly indebted to the KP police which was fighting against the terrorists with bravery and valour.

"You are God's chosen group who are fighting for the State's security, the martyrs deserve paradise while the opponent group is destined to be the hell forever," he said.

## Solangi reiterates govt's commitment to combat terrorism on Pakistan's soil

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that the government was resolute in its commitment to combat terrorism on the soil of this country.

He was delivering his speech as chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Annual Security Assessment Report by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS).

"On behalf of the federal government, let me assure you that we are constantly working to address the issue of terrorism through various hard and soft measures", he said.

He said that Pakistan had repeatedly asked interim Afghan government to address Pakistan's counter-terrorism concerns, especially the space available to militant groups like TTP to operate in and from Afghanistan.

"Pakistan expects a positive response from the Afghan government. Pakistan has also raised the issue of access to modern weapons in Afghanistan to these militant groups besides involvement of Afghan nationals in anti-state violence in Pakistan", he said adding without addressing the issue of terrorism, both countries could not embark on the journey of economic growth and development.

Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that there would be no negotiations with armed terrorist groups.

"There will be no talks with terrorists as long as they are armed and do not accept the constitution of Pakistan", Murtaza Solangi said categorically. He said that JUI Chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman's visit to Afghanistan was unofficial.

In a statement, he said that before leaving for his visit, Fazl ur Rehman took a briefing from various institutions.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi addressing during a seminar on "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" organize by Press Information Department.

## PM for harnessing true IT potential through HR training, enabling environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that with a focus on training of human resources as per contemporary requirements, enabling environment and imbuing the spirit of entrepreneurship in the youth, the true potential of Pakistan's IT sector could be harnessed.

"This will turn around and uplift our economy in the short to medium term, Inshallah... I assure you of the government's full support to help you explore

the untapped potential in Pakistan's IT sector," he said addressing a Tech Destination Pakistan event which featured the launch of E-Rozgar Centers in the country.

He said the government through its Digital Policy envisioned bringing economic prosperity and citizen empowerment through digital transformation as it was working on the vision of "Digital Pakistan" through multiple cross-sectoral digital transformation initiatives.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addresses the Tech Destination Pakistan Ceremony.

## IHC withdraws stay order on cipher case, annuls in-camera proceedings

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while withdrawing stay order in respect of cipher case trial has annulled the proceedings occurred after December 14.

The appeal plea of PTI founder Imran Khan against in camera trial of cipher case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb here Thursday.

The court had stayed the trial of cipher case.

Attorney General (AG) Mansoor Usman Awan and counsel Suleman Akram Raja appeared in the court.

AG gave his arguments. Later Suleman Akram Raja took the plea in the court that the proceedings after December 14 order be

annulled. They have admitted that December 14 order was not correct.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked "AG Sahib if you want to take back proceedings then you should do it from when the order was passed. Order will also be issued in this regard.

The AG while assuring to do in-camera proceedings afresh said we are ready to record statements of 13 witnesses.

It is pertinent to mention here Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq while reserving judgment on special prosecutor plea for in-camera hearing in cipher case on previous hearing had remarked we will give decision after seeing the record of case.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

A day after Justice Naqvi

## Justice Ijazul Ahsan also steps down as SC judge

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court senior judge Justice Ijazul Ahsan tendered his resignation on Thursday over unknown reasons.

The third senior most judge of the apex court, Justice Ijazul Ahsan who was set to become chief justice in October this year sent his resignation to President Arif Alvi.

The development comes a day after Justice (ret'd) Naqvi stepped down from his post as SC judge.

Supreme Court Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi tendered his resignation on January 10, as the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) was hearing a reference against him over the misconduct alle-

gations revolving around amassing wealth beyond his resources.

In his resignation sent to President Arif Alvi, he said it wasn't possible for him to continue working, as he mentioned his tenure both at the Supreme Court and the Lahore High Court (LHC).

"In the circumstances which are a matter of public knowledge and to some extent public record, it is no longer possible for me to continue to serve as a judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Considerations of due process also compel so," the resignation letter reads.

Earlier on the day, President Alvi accepted the resignation of Justice Mazhar Naqvi.

## President accepts resignation of SC judge Mazhar Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has accepted the resignation of Supreme Court Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi. Petition was filed against Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) which was to be heard on January 13.

Proceedings on Reference over the misconduct allegations, mainly revolving around amassing wealth beyond his resources against Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi was underway. In his resignation sent to Alvi on Wednesday, he said it wasn't possible for him to continue working, as he mentioned his tenure both at the Lahore High Court (LHC).



FAISALABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting held at Hockey Stadium Tandlianwala in Faisalabad.

## Only PPP can steer country out of crises, claims Bilawal

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed on Thursday that only his party could steer the country out of current crises, as it had a very clear manifesto for people's welfare. Addressing a public gathering at Tandlianwala here, he said the PPP enjoyed masses' support because of its public welfare agenda and unprecedented sacrifices, offered by its leadership for democracy in Pakistan. He said the PPP would re-emerge as a leading force in the general election 2024.

He said the PPP had a 10-point agenda for ensuring public welfare and betterment after coming to power. He said PPP founder chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had created awareness among masses

about protection of their legitimate rights whereas his mother Benazir Bhutto embraced martyrdom but never compromised on democratic norms. He said the PPP had already introduced Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for downtrodden segments of society. After coming to power, the PPP would also introduce Benazir Kisan Card, Benazir Mazdoor Card and Benazir Youth Card, in addition to initiating free medical treatment, free education, free electricity up to 300 units, Waseela-e-Haq, Waseela-e-Rozgar and other programmes. He also announced establishment of a university in Tandlianwala if his party was voted to power, along with giving proprietary rights to people living in Kutchi Abadis and construction of 3 million houses.

## FO expresses regret over unleashing of Pakistan bashing narrative in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has expressed regret over the unleashing of a Pakistan bashing, jingoistic and militaristic narrative in India ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections.

Responding to a query regarding the book of former Indian diplomat Ajay Bisaria, at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said it is a matter of common knowledge that the ruling dispensation in India used Pulwama episode for domestic political gains. She said the book of the former Indian diplomat appears to advance India's fictitious narratives around the developments of February 2019.

The spokesperson said Balakot was a military fiasco for India. It was an instance of Indian adventurism that went badly and embarrassingly wrong for them. She recalled that the Indian aircraft were shot down and an Indian pilot was taken as a prisoner by Pakistan. She said despite India's adventurism, Pakistan behaved responsibly to de-escalate the situation while demonstrating its capacity to respond when its security is threatened.

## 6.0 magnitude quake jolts Islamabad, Lahore, other cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 6.0 magnitude earthquake on Thursday afternoon caused panic among residents of the twin cities and other part of the country.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the seismic activity was felt in the Federal Capital Islamabad, Rawalpindi and neighboring regions, Lahore, Muzaffarabad, Peshawar, Chilas, Quetta, Zhob, Charat and other cities at 2.20 pm. The quake was recorded 6.0 magnitudes and its epicenter Hindu Kush Region of Pak-Afghan border at a depth of 213km. Its longitude and latitude were 70.63 East and 36.16 North, respectively.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education Madad Ali Sindhi distributing degree among students at 7th Convocation of Lahore Leads University along with Vice Chancellor Nadeem Bhatti and Chairman board of Governor Mian Zahoor Watto.



## KP Governor lends support to Civil Society's call of banning e-cigarettes, vaping

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali Thursday extended support to Civil Society's call for banning e-cigarettes and vaping while keeping in view its harms to public health and increasing use of modern tobacco products among youth.

He expressed these views while talking with a delegation that called on him under the chairmanship of Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager Blue Veins, a non-governmental organization.

Other members of the delegation included Ajmal Shah, Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Control Cell, Dr. Ihtisham, Chest Specialist LRH, Dr. Qazi Shahbaz, Chairman Provincial Doctors Association, Mohammad Rizwan, Provincial Coordinator National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and Sana Ahmad, Programme Coordinator Blue Veins.

Speaking during the meeting, Qamar Naseem apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali that new tobacco products are emerging in the whole world at a very fast speed. In our country, he continued, these products are available very easily in markets and due to deceiving slogans of harm reduction or 'Quit smoking and start vaping' is attracting a large number of people towards consumption of smokeless tobacco.

Qamar said due to lack of latest legislation in the

country, the existing laws on tobacco control cannot be enforced on the use or sale of modern smokeless tobacco products which use is increasing due to easy availability in markets and advertisement in media.

The delegation members requested the Governor for measures to impose a ban on vapes and all forms of e-cigarettes. In this regard, they also suggested legislation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Responding to the points, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali while expressing his agreement to the call extended support for imposition of ban on these products with the purpose of protecting public health, especially youth.

He expressed these views while talking with a delegation that called on him under the chairmanship of Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager Blue Veins, a non-governmental organization.

Other members of the delegation included Ajmal Shah, Coordinator Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tobacco Control Cell, Dr. Ihtisham, Chest Specialist LRH, Dr. Qazi Shahbaz, Chairman Provincial Doctors



LARKANA: A woman busy is selecting used warm clothes at Old Bus Stand Road.

## Health minister advocates raising age limit for girl marriages

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir Thursday emphasised the necessity of increasing the age limit for girl marriages.

In a consultative session, organised by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) here, he cited hormonal changes during adolescence that often lead to physiological disorders. The minister highlighted the potential health risks

faced by young brides. Dr. Nasir pointed out that subjecting minor girls or those not physically or emotionally mature to marriage could result in multiple problems for them. He emphasised the importance of protecting the fundamental rights of females, backed by medical evidence showing their genetic and natural vulnerability. Early marriages, he warned, could lead to a drastic deterioration in the physical health of young brides, contributing to societal issues surrounding infertility.

## Bid to smuggle heroin abroad foiled; 3 held

PESHAWAR (APP): The Excise police station, Mardan Region on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle heroin abroad and arrested an international drug smuggler along with two facilitators while recovering 57 swallowed capsules. According to the spokesman of Excise, the Excise police acting on a tip-off conducted an operation on Ring Road Chamtar Chowk, district Mardan and intercepted a suspected vehicle with three persons onboard and going to Islamabad International Airport.

The police took the main accused Naveed, a resident of Kot Radha Kishan, district Kasur, to MMC Hospital where a health team recovered 57 swallowed capsules of heroin from his stomach.

The Excise police arrested the international drug smuggler along with the real owner of the drug Habib-ul-Haq, and co-facilitator Fazl Muhammad, residents of Bara.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Mohsin Naqvi distributing laptops amongst the students of King Edwards Medical College.

## 'Pneumonia cases rises in Punjab' Minister advise citizens to maintain a healthy diet, use face masks

LAHORE (Online): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health and Population Welfare Dr. Jamal Nasir Thursday urged people to remain vigilant while maintaining a healthy diet and using face masks as 'pneumonia cases' were continuously rising due to smog weather.

Talking to a private news channel he pointed out that people with weak immunity due to chronic cardiac, kidney and liver diseases or diabetes could easily contract the respiratory disease in cold weather.

Health experts warned of an acute rise in pneumonia cases among elderly people and children, adding, citizens asked to use plenty of rest, warm beverages, steam baths or the use of humidifiers in houses for air moisture and timely consultations with doctors.

He said that the major cause of increased cases was undiagnosed influenza and pneumonia cases, adding, citizens to immediately consult doctors and receive treatment after having respiratory issues.

## May 9 incident Court approves 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder in 12 cases

RAWALPINDI (Online): 14 days judicial remand of PTI founder Imran Khan in 12 cases related to May 9 incident has been approved.

12 cases pertaining to May 9 incidents were heard in Adiala Jail against former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan Thursday. The case came up for hearing before Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) led by judge Ijaz Asif.

Imran Khan was presented in the court on completion of two days

physical remand. Malik Faisal and Shahbaz Khosa represented PTI founder in the court. The investigation officers requested the court during hearing of the case to extend physical remand of Imran Khan for further 30 days.

The court however rejected the plea for further physical remand of Imran Khan. The court sent Imran Khan to jail on judicial remand for 14 days in 12 cases related to May 9 incidents.

## KP Govt decides to launch major literacy campaign in merged districts; Dr. Aamer

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Newly Merged Districts Affairs, Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Dr. Aamer Abdullah has said that the provincial government has decided to launch a major literacy campaign of "Ilam Da Tolo Dapara" (Education for All) to increase literacy rate in the merged districts. He said that the aim of this campaign was to promote the boys and girls education in these districts, adding that in order to make this campaign successful, it had been decided to establish a task force at the district level.

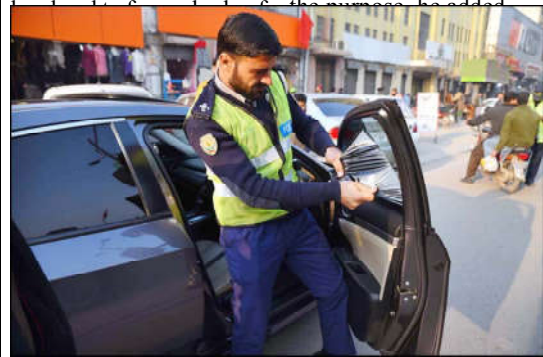
While introducing technical education and skills training courses in general educational institutions, the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) has been assigned the task of conducting a feasibility study about identification of suitable institutions for literacy experts who would supervise this campaign.

In a radio interview on Thursday, the caretaker minister said that it had also been decided to start a campaign to make dysfunctional educational institutions fully functional by increasing the enrollment of students in the merged districts.

## PML-N issues ticket to father in law of Gogi from Gujranwala

LAHORE (Online): PML-N has issued party ticket to Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal father in law of Farah Gogi from Gujranwala for election-2024.

PML-N has announced party candidates from Gujranwala division. Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal will be PML-N candidate from PP-68 Gujranwala. He was elected MPA on PML-N ticket earlier. He was defeated by Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in the election for speaker Punjab Assembly in 2018.



PESHAWAR: Traffic Warden Officials are removing tinted sheet from a car at Cantt Bazar.

## Lawyers Grand Alliance organizes event

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 250 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 637 grams of weed were recovered from a parcel sent from Thailand at the courier office in Rawalpindi while three accused were arrested.

In an operation, 128.5 kg hashish and 53.5 kg opium were recovered near Swabi Interchange. 36 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up from Ring Road Peshawar.

Rana Shahid Mehmood KOTADDU: According to the details, on the last day of the campaign of District Bar Association Kot Addu Annual Elections 2024,25, an event was organized by the Lawyers Grand Alliance in which the presidential candidate Munir Ahmed Korya Advocate, Deputy President Jam Naem Akhtar Advocate, General Secretary Imran Mustafa Bhatti Advocate, Joint Secretary Waqar Ahmed Dogar, Finance Secretary Shahzadul Haque, Library Secretary Noman Ali Chaudhry, Editor Furqan Majeed and other candidates also organized lunch for the participants of the event on behalf of the members.

Punjab Bar Council Ijaz Ahmad Khan Gormani said that the bar association was given the status of district so that by activating the district courts, the citizens do not have to travel miles to solve the problems faced by them. I played a role in providing facilities by activating the dispensary. He said that the candidates for the national elections should stop criticizing the Bar Association. By creating a pleasant atmosphere between the bar and the bench, solve the problems of the petitioners and lawyers on priority basis and make the Grand Alliance group successful.

## International News

## Abbas agrees to reunite West Bank, Gaza: Blinken

US supports establishment of independent Palestinian state

MANAMA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday that Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority in a way that could "reunite" Gaza and the occupied West Bank under its leadership.

In a related development, Egypt and Jordan warned against any Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip. Blinken was speaking to reporters in Bahrain after meeting with Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah during a tour of the Middle East aimed at preventing an escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"We talked [...] about the importance of reforming the Palestinian Authority, policy and governance so that it can effectively take responsibility for Gaza... so that Gaza and the West Bank can be reunited under a Palestinian leadership," he said.

"It's very clear to me for president Abbas that he's prepared to move forward and engage in all of these efforts," Blinken said.

Blinken said Abbas was committed to reforming the Palestinian Authority. "What I take away from this meeting is that he is committed to that and is very much prepared to move forward," Blinken told AFP in response to a question about Abbas's commitment to reforming the PA.

Egypt and Jordan while warning against any Israeli reoccupation in the Gaza Strip appealed for the uprooted residents to be allowed to return to their homes as the Arab countries' leaders met Abbas.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has demanded the Yemeni Houthis to immediately stop attacks on ships in the Red Sea.

According to media reports, 11 of the 15 permanent members of the Security Council voted in favor of the resolution, 4 countries including Russia and China did not participate in the voting, and no country opposed the resolution.

The Security Council resolution endorsed a US-led task force to protect ships from attack.



Al Jazeera journalist Wael Al-Dahdouh attends the funeral of his son, Palestinian journalist Hamza Al-Dahdouh, after Hamza was killed in an Israeli strike, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

## Israel army claims two journalists slain in Gaza strike were 'terror operatives'

TEL AVIV (INP): Israel's army claimed on Wednesday that two Al Jazeera journalists killed in an air strike in Gaza were "terror operatives".

Hamza Wael Dahdouh and Mustafa Thuria, who also worked as a video stringer for a foreign news agency and other news organisations, were killed on Sunday while they were on an assignment for the Qatar-based channel in the city of Rafah.

The army said in a statement on Wednesday its "intelligence has confirmed that both the deceased were members of Gaza-based terrorist organisations actively involved in attacks against IDF (army) forces".

"Prior to the strike, the two operated drones, posing an imminent threat to IDF troops," the army said.

There was no immediate reaction available from the television channel and families of the two men.

When asked on Wednesday reporters about what kind of drones were used by the two men and the nature of the threat the drones posed to Israeli troops, the army said it was "checking".

It said Thuria was identified in a document found by troops in Gaza to be a member of Hamas's Gaza City Brigade, while Dahdouh was identified as a "terrorist" belonging to Islamic Jihad.

The army statement included a copy of a document it said was a list of "operatives from an electronic engineering unit of the Islamic Jihad, including Dahdouh and his military number".

Dahdouh and Thuria were killed when the car they were travelling in was hit by two rockets on a street in Rafah, according to witnesses. A third journalist and the driver of the car were wounded.

## America's announcement of relaxation in visa conditions

WASHINGTON (Online): United States (US) has announced relaxation of visa conditions, the US Department of State has changed the preconditions for all non-immigrant visa interview waivers.

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## Oil tanker involved in U.S.-Iran dispute boarded by armed guards near Oman, diverted

DUBAI (Internews): An oil tanker caught up in a dispute last year between the United States and Iran was boarded by armed individuals off the coast of Oman on Thursday and appeared to have changed course towards Iran, according to UK maritime sources.

The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker St Nikolas was boarded by armed intruders as it sailed close to the Omani city of Sohar, according to British maritime security firm Ambrey, and its AIS tracking system was turned off as it headed in the direction of the Iranian port of Bandar-e-Jask.

In 2023 the St Nikolas was seized by the United States in a sanctions enforcement operation when it sailed under a different name, Suez Rajan.

The United States said at the time that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had been trying to send contraband Iranian oil to China, in violation of U.S. sanctions.

The ship loaded 145,000 metric tonnes of oil in the Iraqi port of Basra and was heading to Aliaga in western Turkey via the Suez Canal.

## Brazil expresses support for South African genocide case against Israel

SAO PAULO (Internews): Brazil expressed its support for the case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice against Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip, which have caused more than 23,000 deaths since Oct. 7.

The Brazilian decision was taken hours after President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met in Brasilia with Palestinian Ambassador Ibrahim Alzein.

Although Lula emphasized that his administration immediately condemned the Hamas attack of Oct. 7, he affirmed that "such acts do not justify Israel's indiscriminate, recurrent and disproportionate use of force against civilians."

Brazil's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that considering "the flagrant violations of international humanitarian law," Lula expressed support for South Africa's case with the goal of ordering "Israel to immediately cease all acts and measures that may constitute genocide or related crimes under the terms of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."

The statement emphasized that Lula has been making efforts in the international community for a ceasefire, the liberation of Hamas-held hostages, and the creation of humanitarian corridors to protect Palestinian civilians. "The Brazilian government reiterates its defense of the two-state solution, with an economically viable Palestinian state living side by side with Israel, in peace and security, within mutually agreed and internationally recognized borders."

## Soldiers on the streets as Ecuador declares war on cartels

QUITO: Hundreds of soldiers patrolled near-deserted streets in Ecuador's capital Wednesday after the government and drug mafias declared war on each other, leaving residents gripped with fear.

On Tuesday, officials said another narco boss — Los Lobos leader Fabricio Colon Pico — also escaped since his arrest last Friday for alleged involvement in a plot to assassinate Ecuador's attorney general.

Ecuador President Daniel Noboa said on Wednesday that his country was "at war" with drug gangs who are holding more than 130 prison guards and other staff hostage and who briefly captured a TV station live on air and set off explosions in a surge of violence that has left city streets deserted.

## WHO cancels sixth aid mission to Gaza over security concerns

LONDON: The World Health Organisation (WHO) cancelled another planned medical aid mission to Gaza on Wednesday over security concerns, the sixth such cancellation in two weeks, and sounded a fresh alarm over the spread of infectious disease there.

The UN body's director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said it was the sixth mission to northern Gaza cancelled by the UN agency because requests to visit had not been approved or assurances over security provided since its last visit, on Dec 26.

"Intense bombardment, restrictions on movement, fuel shortage and interrupted communications make it impossible for WHO and our partners to reach those in need," he told a virtual press conference from Geneva. "We call on Israel to approve requests by WHO and other partners to deliver humanitarian aid."



Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing closing ceremony of Global Health Security Summit in Islamabad.

## Delegation of Islamabad high court judges visited Safe City Islamabad

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, along with CPO Safe City/Traffic, CPO Law and Order and other senior police officers, welcomed the delegation of Islamabad High Court Judges, a public relations officer said.

He said that the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and benefits.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through

E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline.

He emphasized that the delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city and preventing crimes and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens. 42% of crimes are resolved through the Safe City Command and Control Center.

Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he maintained.

The delegation acknowledged the modern



modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center,

technical system of the Islamabad Capital Police and its benefits. The ICCPO presents an honorary shield to the honorable judges.

## BECS, FDI agree to advance climate education in ICT Schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Directorate General of Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) and Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) on Thursday signed a landmark Letter of Understanding (LOU) to advance Climate Education in Informal Schools in Islamabad.

The LOU underscores the commitment to environmental education and human rights.

The partnership aims to enhance climate education initiatives within informal and formal schools across Islamabad.

The signing ceremony, held at BECS office marked the collaborative efforts of BECS, led by Mr. Hameed Khan Niazi and fdi, represented by Ms. Uzma Yaqoob. The event was attended by esteemed dignitaries, representatives from both organizations, educators, and activists who share a common vision for a sustainable and informed future. The Letter of Un-

derstanding outlines a comprehensive framework for the integration of climate education modules into the curriculum of informal schools in Islamabad. This groundbreaking initiative seeks to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand, address, and mitigate the challenges posed by climate change.

BECS expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, "Education is the cornerstone of societal progress, and climate education is pivotal in fostering responsible global citizens. This collaboration with fdi aligns with our commitment to providing quality education that equips students with the tools they need to navigate an ever-changing world."

fdi has a longstanding commitment to environmental advocacy, and Ms. Uzma emphasized the importance of educating the youth.



ISLAMABAD: Fire Fighters are busy in fire extinguishing at house in Sector G-6/1-2 in Federal Capital.

## Islamabad police establish first cyber crime investigation unit to combat digital offenses

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD: The inaugural Cyber Crime Investigation Unit within the Pakistan police department has been officially established as part of Islamabad Police's efforts to strengthen the fight against cybercrime. This milestone initiative comes on the heels of amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), empowering Islamabad Police to register cybercrime cases under Section 30.

Seeking to harness specialized expertise,

Islamabad Police collaborated with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to leverage technical assistance in the investigation of cybercrimes. The partnership is geared towards addressing the intricate challenges posed by cyber threats and ensuring a robust response to the evolving landscape of digital offenses. The unit has been established following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and the successful completion of the first phase of training for 60 officers from Islamabad Po-

## Ashrafi debunks misconceptions about non-Muslims' visit to Madina Munawarah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative for Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Muslim countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Thursday expressed concerns about the unjustified social media smear campaign against Saudi leadership.

He, in a statement, stressed the need to effectively counter the tactics, aimed at creating emotional confusion and gulf among admirers of Saudi Arabia.

He specifically referred to a controversy, following the visit of Indian delegation, led by Union Minister Smriti Irani, to

Madina Munawarah during her two-day official visit to the Kingdom. The purpose of the visit was to sign a bilateral agreement allocating a quota of 175,025 pilgrims for this year's annual Hajj pilgrimage, he added.

Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, referred to a verse from the Holy Quran related to the prohibition of non-Muslims' visit, and clarified that this applied to just Masjid-e-Haram, according to the views of several Ulema and Mashaykh.

He cited religious decrees from Saudi Mufti Azam Ibn Baz and other prominent scholars, affirming that non-Muslims could indeed visit Madina

Munawarah.

Emphasizing the historical context, Ashrafi highlighted instances from the era of the second Caliph Hazrat Umar (RA) when non-Muslims visited the Madina for trade purposes.

He also mentioned that even Christians from Najran visited Madina even during the lifetime of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Ashrafi discussed the two aspects of the visit, considering both Shariah and political dimensions. He asserted that Saudi religious scholars and leaders had a clear stance on the temporary visit of non-Muslims to Madina for specific purposes.

## 'India trying to crush Kashmiris' indigenous freedom struggle'

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) and other Hurriyat leaders have said that India is trying to crush the indigenous freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people by state coercion and military force on Thursday. According to Kashmir Media Services, Mehmoed Ahmad Saghar, General Secretary Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Altaf Hussain Wani and Uzair Ahmed Ghazali Sheikh Yaqoob, in their separate statements.

## National polio immunization campaign continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The first nationwide polio vaccination campaign of the year 2024 continued in the country on Thursday to protect children from paralytic polio. During the ongoing nationwide campaign, more than 44.3 million children under five years of age will be given oral polio drops during the five-day-long campaign, which will continue until January 12.

Children in Lakki Marwat and South Waziristan Upper and Lower will be vaccinated from January 15-19, while the campaign will be held in Tank from January 15-21 and in DI Khan from January 22-28.

Over 400,000 vaccinators will bring the vaccine to children's doorsteps. In Punjab, 22.6 million children will be vaccinated, while 10.3 million children in Sindh, 7.5 million children in KP, 2.6 million children in Balochistan, 0.72 million children in AJK, 0.28 million children in GB, and 0.42 million children in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid delivering opening remarks at seminar "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" organized by Press Information Department.

## Shahera appreciates PID for initiating debate on national issues ahead of general elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Information and Broadcasting Ms. Shahera Shahid on Thursday appreciated the Press Information Department for holding a series of seminars in the run up to coming general elections to generate debate on national issues.

Addressing the opening session of a seminar on "Pakistan Election 2024: The Economic Reforms Agenda of Political Parties" here, she said that

through this series of seminars, the government wanted to initiate debate on issues being faced by Pakistan and their solutions in the backdrop of upcoming general elections.

The objective of this seminar was to educate the people about the problems to be faced by the government which would come to power after February 8

elections and what policies should be adopted to overcome these problems and put the country on path of development, she said.

The Secretary said that in the seminar, not only experts on economic affairs were invited but also representatives of the political parties to give their respective parties perspective on economic revival.

## Dark night of Indian oppression in IIOJK will eventually end: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Thursday said that the dark night of Indian oppression in occupied Jammu and Kashmir will eventually end one day and the Kashmiri people will see the dawn of freedom. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the people of Kashmir are demanding their inalienable right to self-determination but the Indian Hindutva regime is reluctant to accept the peaceful and democratic formula and is hell bent on using repression against the legitimate and indigenous resistance movement of Kashmir.

He said Kashmiris are presently forced to live under illegal military occupation of India, yet they are determined to gain freedom as they have never submitted to Indian machinations.

The spokesman said that Indian colonialism used every tactic of oppression to weaken the Kashmiris' indigenous movement for freedom but it could not stop them from continuing their struggle for right to self-determination. He said that the Kashmiris had a great respect for the youth who had sacrificed their lives for the Kashmir cause and urged the international community to increase pressure on India to stop state terrorism in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

## Global health summit concludes with commitment to unified response, collaborative action

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Global Health Summit, a two-day event with health ministers from countries, health experts and stakeholders from around the world, concluded on Thursday with a resounding commitment to a unified and coordinated response to emerging health challenges.

The summit provided a platform for insightful discussions, knowledge exchange, and the establishment of collaborative initiatives to strengthen global health security.

The summit presented determination and shared vision among nations, transcending geopolitical boundaries in the pursuit of a common goal.

Discussions covered a wide spectrum of topics, from collaborative preparedness to the critical role of resilient health systems.

Delegates representing diverse corners of the globe shared invaluable insights, emphasizing the interconnectedness of our shared destiny.

Caretaker Federal

Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan congratulated the participating delegates and participants to make this summit a successful event. "Beyond national interests, we are partners for a common goal - to ensure the health of all."

He proposed to introduce a Global Health Security Agenda Champion Awards to be bestowed upon the countries or individuals based on their exemplary contributions to the cause.

He also proposed the inclusion of a dedicated special session on global health security in both the annual UNGA and World Health Assembly agendas. This would provide a regular platform for nations to review progress, share insights, and discuss emerging health challenges on a global scale.

A comprehensive five-year global action plan was proposed to guide nations in implementing strategies for enhancing health security.

Dr Nadeem said, "As we conclude this summit, let it not be an endpoint but

a launchpad and beginning of the end. Commitments made here must translate into concrete actions in our respective nations. Implementation is the litmus test of our dedication to the ideals espoused during these deliberations."

Federal Secretary of Health Ifkhar Ali Shalwani stated that it was a "dream come true" to witness the collaborative efforts of policymakers, experts, and stakeholders from around the world.

He emphasized the need for continued collaboration and the implementation of evidence-based strategies to safeguard global health. He underscored the importance of the summit as a platform for forging partnerships and creating a roadmap for collective action.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, Director General of Health, expressed sincere gratitude to participants for their active engagement throughout the summit. He summarized the main highlights of the two-day proceedings of the summit.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah cutting ribbon to inaugurate Calligraphy Exhibition at PNCA.

## Solangi felicitates IHCJA's newly elected office bearers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Thursday congratulated the newly elected office bearers of the Islamabad High Court Journalists Association (IHCJA).

He, in a news statement, felicitated IHCJA's President Fayyaz Mehmoed, Senior Vice President Hussain Ahmed, Vice President (Women) Ambreen Ali, General Secretary Muhammad Imran and other officials on winning the election.

Their victory in the election was a manifestation of the trust reposed by the court reporters in them, the minister added.

He expressed the hope that the newly elected regime would meet the expectations of the court reporters.

## PIO Dr. Tariq says: Caretaker govt seeks positive economic reforms thru dialogue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Principal Information Officer (PIO) Dr. Tariq Mehmoed Khan on Thursday said that the caretaker government intended to foster a constructive dialogue on economic reforms in the country with a goal of steering the nation forward.

Addressing the seminar on "Elections and Economic Agenda of Political Parties", he extended thanks and gratitude to the participants. It was organized by Press Information Department (PID).

He highlighted the media's active participation in diverse discussions and said that Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, desired to commence a debate,

specifically focusing on elections and reforms.

He expressed the gratitude to the Istikham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Jamat-e-Islami for their participation in the seminar, where they shared the plans and ideas, to ensure the progress and improvement of the country.

He voiced the optimism that other political parties would also participate in the upcoming seminar, in order to share information about their plans, for working towards achieving lasting stability in the country.

He said the interim government was actively implementing reforms to provide a foundation for the forthcoming administration.

## HEC to hold conferences to seek ideas for tackling climate change challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has decided to hold a series of conferences across the country to seek innovative ideas from Pakistani university graduates to tackle climate change challenges.

According to HEC, on a national scale, Pakistan grapples with significant climate change challenges, including power generation, power distribution, renewable energy, waste dump-

ing points, waste collection points, water treatment, segregation of waste, and the pressing demands of a growing population.

The consequences of these issues are profound, stressing the urgency of a united effort to secure energy, water, eco-tourism, agriculture & forestry and liquid & solid waste management resources and ensure sustainability for present and future generations.



ISLAMABAD: A man is displayed banners in honor of Pak Army martyred on trees at a green belt along the road side at sector F-6 in Federal Capital.